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quired a more critical skill in distinguishing the dates of our oldest MSS. than I thought attainable, in regard they are so few; but it seems, and I am glad to find it so, we are not so poor as I imagined.

You have probably, ere this, perused that MS. of the bishop of Norwich's I mentioned in my last. If you have copied the few marginal entries in it, I should be glad of them at your leisure, as also of the few Irish words you say there are in one place of the Cambridge Psalter now by you; because, they may, perhaps, prove British. Pray, do you take the Durham Gospels to be Saxon or British hands? and are there any glosses or marginal entries? It has long been my opinion, that the Irish received their letters from the Britans, and the Saxons from both, which I grounded on the several MSS. we have in that character in Wales, and the number of old Irish MSS., either as to language or character, still extant though very much dispersed. The oldest I have met with, with any assurance of date, is the inscription of Kadvan, king of North Wales, who was at the famous engagement against *Æthelfrith*, anno 607, according to the Saxon Chronicle. We have diverse others, that look old enough, but no certainty of the time.

I am, Sir,

your obliged friend and humble servant,  
E. LHWYD.

#### LETTER XIV.

*Bishop PERCY to the Rev. EVAN EVANS, dated EASTON MAUDIT, April 10, 1764.*

DEAR SIR,—It is with pleasure I perform all your requests; inclosed you have the transcript from Wormius which you desired. As his book relates only to the Runic letters and ancient manner of writing, it did not fall within his subject professedly to treat of the Icelandic prosody; he has, therefore, only described one species of verse out of innumerable others, and this, as it were, by the bye and by way of specimen. He refers to the *Edda*, or old Icelandic book of prosody, for the rest; this book I have not seen.—There is another *Edda*, which I have, that explains the Icelandic mythology, and of this I shall publish, ere long, a translation, with some curious notes and dissertations of *M. Mallet*, the present historiographer to the King of Denmark, as you may remember I have hinted in the preface to my specimens of Runic poetry.

When may one hope to see your *Dissertatio de Bardis*\*? I am fond of the subject, and have great expectations of your manner of handling it. I thank you for your friend's preface; though he is not much master of English style, the particulars he produces are curious†. I have turned to my learned friend Mr. Lye's edition of *Junii Etymologicon Anglicanum* for the etymology of such words as your friend mentions, and I find nothing, that does not confirm his derivations; I have not time now to descend to particulars, but shall be glad to hear from you as soon as agreeable. One so much master, as you are, of British antiquities, whether historic or poetical, can never want means of entertaining,

dear Sir, your very affectionate servant,

THOMAS PERCY.

P. S. Pray, are the Welsh romances, you have described, in prose or verse? If they are in prose, then let me ask if you have ever seen any in verse? I take it, these subjects were treated in verse before they came to plain prose in most nations‡. This, at least, I find to be the case in the old Erse and Islandic languages, as well as in the more modern Italian, French, Spanish, and English tongues. I have got curious specimens in the last I mentioned. Pray is the word St. *Great*, or St. *Greal*, in the first article of your curious letter §?

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#### LETTERS ON COLL GWYNFA.

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##### LETTER I.

To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.

SIR,—You have, in the first and third numbers of your miscellany, given a criticism on Mr. Owen Pughe's translation of *Paradise Lost*; and I will venture to express my conviction, that

\* This work must have been published soon after this letter was written, as it appeared in the same year.—ED.

† This friend was, most probably, Mr. Lewis Morris.—ED.

‡ Not amongst the Welsh; whose ancient literature possesses this peculiarity, that its poetry is the vehicle of truth and of history, and its prose that of fiction and romance. This has been before noticed in the CAMBRO-BRITON.—ED.

§ There must be an error in the word *saint* here applied to *Greal*; the passage in Mr. Evans's letter had probably reference to the celebrated ancient MS. of that name so unfortunately lost from the Hengwrt library.—ED.